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Johnson Statement Regarding President's Inaugural Address

NEW BRITAIN, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson made the following statement today regarding the President's inaugural address:

"President Bush delivered an inspiring, optimistic address on the power of liberty and the challenges that lay before us in the next four years.

"He focused on liberty and freedom, the basic values on which America was founded and that guide us still today. Realizing the promise of these values is an ongoing challenge, one that spans generations and requires constant vigilance.

"By proclaiming that 'America's vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one,' the President challenged us not only to defend and support liberty abroad because the spread of democracy makes us more secure, but also to stand by it here at home. We must continue ridding our society of bigotry and govern ourselves with character, integrity, and compassion.

"The President spoke specifically to the younger generation, those who will soon take up the responsibilities of leadership, and asked them to remember the sacrifices being made by our Armed Forces in the defense of freedom and the pursuit of democracy and security. Their dedication to duty and their courage are lessons that inspire us all.

"As challenges remain throughout the world, so too do we face challenges here at home, and we must tackle them with energy and optimism. Recently we met the challenge of ensuring the health security of America's seniors by strengthening Medicare, adding prescription drug coverage to it and improving the quality of care seniors with chronic illnesses receive. The next step is to free our seniors from the insecurity of an uncertain retirement, bolstering our country's retirement programs and making sure the promise of Social Security is strong for the retirees of today and tomorrow.

"I look forward to the work that awaits us in the year ahead. While the challenges are great, the case for optimism is strong. Working together we can defend our freedoms and secure for every American the blessings of liberty and security."

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